

NCDOT Works Through Winter Weather

Statewide, NCDOT employees worked night and day during a storm that brought snow, sleet, freezing rain and ice across North Carolina Jan. 22 through Jan. 24. As of Feb. 1, over 2,275 employees across North Carolina spread over 2.2 million gallons of brine, with 1,604 NCDOT trucks/ graders and 665 contractor trucks. Additionally, they used over 75,000 tons of salt and over 27,000 tons of sand/salt mix.

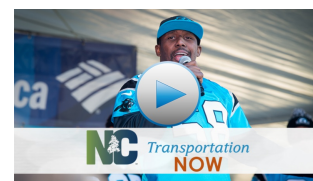


NCDOT crews and equipment made their way from Pasquotank County to Asheville during the storm.

Crews worked 12-hour alternating shifts throughout the storm and over the weekend, plowing roads, sawing and clearing fallen trees from roads and salting bridges and overpasses throughout the state.

Places in eastern counties that saw lesser impacts from the storm even sent crews to help harder hit areas, sharing resources and helping clear roadways in the western part of the state. Maintenance crews from Washington and Pasquotank counties arrived in the Asheville area Saturday night to assist with response efforts there. Twelve trucks from Sampson County arrived in Raleigh Sunday, and NCDOT transferred additional equipment from the coastal area to Durham County. The NCDOT State Farm Safety Patrol had helped more than 200 disabled motorists and assisted in 215 wrecks statewide as of Sunday morning.

Stay Connected



N.C. Transportation
Now

On the most recent episode of N.C. Transportation Now: the Division of Aviation provides a one-stop shop for North Carolina drone operators, NCDOT seeks new partners for its 2016 Watch for Me NC Campaign, the Division of Motor Vehicles' new mobile office hits the road, and NCDOT reminds people to not drink and drive for Super Bowl Sunday.

[Watch this week's N.C. Transportation](#)

New Haywood County Rest Area Opens to the Public



This is the new rest area near Balsam.

Travelers along U.S. 23/74 southbound near Balsam have a newly renovated rest area. On Friday, Jan. 29, the N.C. Department of Transportation opened the new facility, which has dual restrooms, a family restroom, a vending area and parking for cars, long-distance vehicles and trucks. It also offers picnic tables, a water feature and landscaping that utilizes native stone. The existing northbound rest area also is being improved. It will close for renovation later this month and is scheduled to reopen in June.

NCDOT contracted with Buchanan and Sons Inc., from Whittier, on the \$6.15 million project to complete both rest areas.

Rest areas enhance highway safety and keep travelers alert by allowing frequent stops during their travels. North Carolina has 41 interstate and 19 primary route rest areas for a total of 60 sites which attract more than 25 million visitors each year.

Crews in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Swain and Transylvania Counties Respond to Winter Weather

January brought the season's first significant round of winter weather to many of Division 14's counties...Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Swain and Transylvania. This meant that the N.C. Department of Transportation's maintenance crews were hard at work clearing the more than 9,300 lane miles of roads NCDOT is responsible for across the division.

More than 200 employees, operating about 220 pieces of equipment, worked throughout the storm to clear the roads, initially working straight

through day and night, and then going in many cases to 12 hours on, 12 hours off shifts. They used more than 7,350 tons of salt, and nearly 13,170 tons of a salt and sand mixture to help melt the snow and ice and provide traction.

Adding to the difficulties in this storm was the strong winds that creased drifts of 4 to 6 feet in some area. And on roads that were partially cleared by Saturday, the sudden drop in temperature turned the packed snow on roadways into icy surfaces. You can't plow ice, and the plows just glide along like an ice skate. Instead you need the surface to start melting which is where the salt helps once the temperature climbs into the mid 20's and above, or for it to start to break into pieces, which is where the salt/sand mix helps.

Haywood County crews had the added issue of dealing with equipment that developed mechanical issues, slowing efforts in that area. Assistance came in the form of trucks and road graders from other counties in the division.

On the evening of Monday, Jan. 25, NCDOT assisted other agencies in their efforts to rescue a man who was stranded near the top of Mt. Pisgah after the cable car used to transport him to and from the transmitting equipment stopped working, leaving him about 400 feet down an embankment in more than two feet of snow. An NCDOT employee used a motor grader to plow U.S. 276 and the Blue Ridge Parkway so rescuers could drive to the parking area of the trailhead to Mount Pisgah to assist in the rescue.

Steve Abbott

Communications Manager

Phone: (919) 707.2660

Ed Green, P.E.

Division 14 Engineer

Jack Debnam

Division 14 Board of Transportation Board Member

NC Department of Transportation | ncdot.gov